

MUSASHI #9



MIYUKI TAKAHASHI

13

The story so far...

The history of mankind has been one of wars. Relentless warfare would have doomed the planet to annihilation were it not for Ultimate Blue, a secret organization also known as the "other United Nations," and its team of super agents.

Musashi Nine is one of them.

Musashi goes undercover at an all-boys high school and smashes a criminal organization with Shingo Tachibana's help. Despite knowing they belong in different worlds, Shingo finds himself falling in love with Musashi. Musashi foreshadows her own death in an effort to end their relationship, but Shingo refuses to accept it and goes in search of her. After unexpectedly meeting one another, they resume their love despite the many hurdles. They live quietly in the white fields, but danger is never far behind.

After the two's departure, the boys of the Omega club form an auxiliary U.B. team. They come to visit Musashi and Shingo and discover...



U.B. agent #10. One of #9's lieutenants in Asia. Posing as the daughter of a Southeast Asian nation's president, she enrolls at the Omegas' school.

Aileen



Takeru Asami

An artistic high school student who once fell in love with Musashi. After Musashi and Shingo left, he forms the Omega U.B. support team with his friends. He is attracted to Aileen.



Musashi

U.B. agent #9. An elite agent with the ability to change the course of world history, working for a clandestine organization also known as the "other United Nations." Although aware that she and Shingo live worlds apart, she falls for Shingo.



Shingo Tachibana

He is befriended by Musashi, who helps him avenge his best friend. He falls in love with Musashi even though he knows she's agent #9. After searching for her, he finds her at last and confirms his love for her. They are currently living together in secret.

The history of mankind has been one of wars. Race. Religion. Philosophy. The causes are untold.

The combatants have their own justifications, but on occasion, some create a volatile situation that threatens to destroy the world.



Ultimate Blue.

An organization shrouded in complete secrecy. Also known as "the other United Nations." Nobody knows when it was created. Nobody knows where it is based.

The Blue of the Seas.
The Blue of the Skies.
The Blue of the Earth.

The last line of defense against chaos.

Love comes in many forms.

Love between two people leading lives so different they couldn't be further apart. Something to pity? Or something to envy? Everyone has their own opinion.

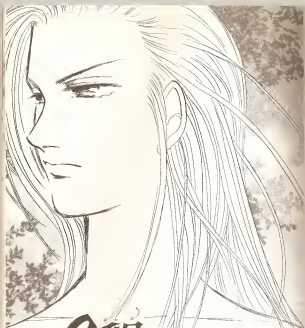
Either way, their love is anything but normal.

But then, how can it be anything else?

CONTENTS

- 5 Mission 23:**
The White Fields,
Part 5
- 45 Mission 23:**
The White Fields,
Part 6
- 83 Mission 24:**
1 Hour, 37 Minutes,
Part 1
- 115 Mission 24:**
1 Hour, 37 Minutes,
Part 2
- 137 Mission 24:**
1 Hour, 37 Minutes,
Part 3
- 161 Mission 24:**
1 Hour, 37 Minutes,
Part 4





9番目の
ムサシ



Mission 23: The White Fields, Part 5



I totally messed up
their quiet
lives and got
them in
trouble—
again.

If anything
happens to
Shingo,
it's my fault.

It's all because
I had to see for
myself because
just maybe...



It's
all
my
fault.

THAT LOOK
ON YOUR
FACE SAYS
YOU'RE
BLAMING
YOURSELF.

It's my fault.



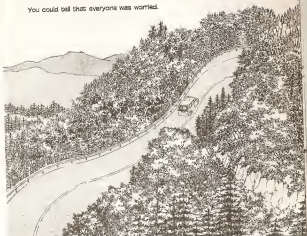
IF YOU'RE GONNA
CALL YOURSELF A
U.S. AGENT, STOP
DWELLING ON
WHOSE FAULT IT IS
OR ISN'T AND START
THINKING ABOUT A
CONTINGENCY
PLAN.

REMEMBER
WHO'S REALLY
CAUSING THIS?
IT'S THE
GENERAL'S
MEN.

IT DOESN'T
SO ANY
GOOD TO
THINK LIKE
THAT.

I
THOUGHT
SO.

You could tell that everyone was worried.



It was real quiet
in the car.



We were all thinkin'
the same thing.

We were hopin' nothin'
happened to Shingo.



She hasn't said a thing.



POSSIBLY.

ON THE OTHER HAND, HE'S THE ONLY LEAD THEY HAVE. IT'S VERY LIKELY THEY'LL WANT HIM.



HMM

JUMP



What does she think about all this?



There was that flash of emotion when we were leaving the cottage.

But she's gone back to her usual icy self.



I'M JUST BEING ME.



ARE YOU CONSOLING HIM OR LAYING INTO HIM? I CAN'T TELL.



A later...

WELL, RIGHT.



Yes, Leo. SO I DID.

TOOK THE WORDS RIGHT OUT OF MY MOUTH.

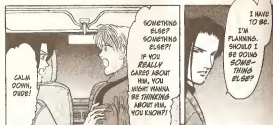


THINK THEY'LL REALLY GO AFTER HIM?

TRUE, THEY SAW US TALKING TO SHINGO. IT'S NOT MUCH OF A JUMP TO ASSUME WE KNOW HIM. BUT THEY'D GO AFTER HIM JUST ON THAT? ISN'T THAT JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS HERE?



ABOUT SHINGO, THOUGH!



CALM
DOWN,
DUDE!

SOMETHING
ELSE?
SOMETHING
ELSE?!

IF YOU
REALLY
CARED ABOUT
HIM, YOU
MIGHT WANNA
BE THINKING
ABOUT HIM,
YOU KNOW?!

I HAVE
TO BE.
I'M
PLANNING.
SHOULD I
BE DOING
SOME-
THING
ELSE?

YOU GOING
CRAZY ISN'T
GOING TO
HELP.

BESIDES,
THEY MIGHT
NOT SO
AFTER
SHINGO.

Pi pi pi pi pi pi pi



UNDER-
STOOD.

I SEE.

YES?



WHAT'S
GOING
THROUGH
YOUR
HEAD
RIGHT
NOW?

HEY,
YUU.

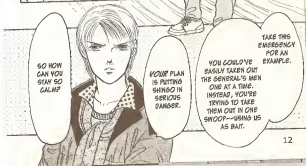


TAKESHI

I MEAN,
HOW CAN
YOU BE
SO CALM
AT A TIME
LIKE THIS?

So how
can she
be so
calm?

Her boyfriend
could be—
in fact,
probably is—
in danger.

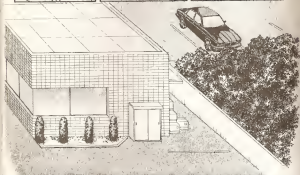


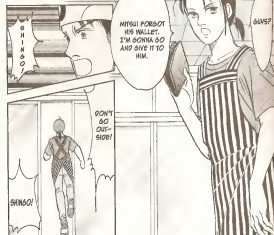
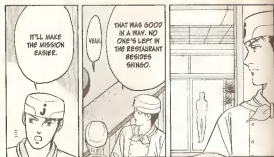
SO HOW
CAN YOU
STAY SO
CALM?

YOUR PLAN
IS PUTTING
SHINGO IN
SERIOUS
DANGER.

YOU COULD'VE
EASILY TAKEN OUT
THE GENERAL'S MEN
ONE AT A TIME.
INSTEAD, YOU'RE
TRYING TO TAKE
THEM OUT IN ONE
SWOOP--USING US
AS BAIT.

TAKE THIS
EMERGENCY
FOR AN
EXAMPLE.





SPIN



Not good.

Definitely not ordinary people.

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?



WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

LET GO!



PUT HIM IN THE CAR.

RIGHT.



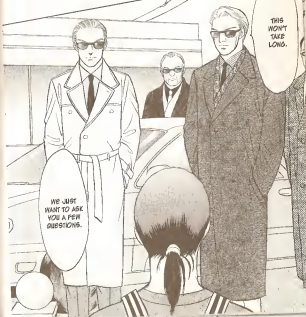
LET GO OF ME!

WE SAID THAT IT WOULDN'T TAKE LONG.

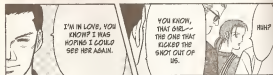
YOU SEEM TO KNOW TAKEKUNI ASAMI AND KANAME NAKAMURA.

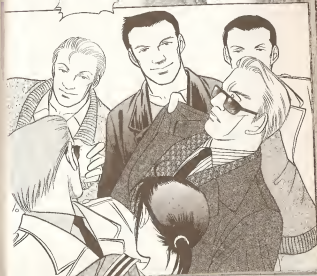
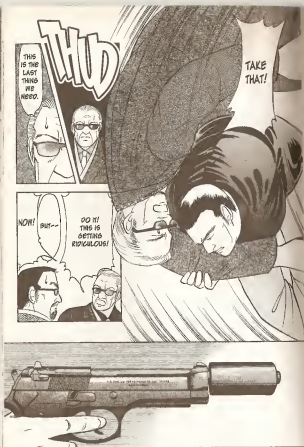


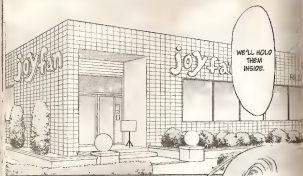
THIS WON'T TAKE LONG.



WE JUST WANT TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS.







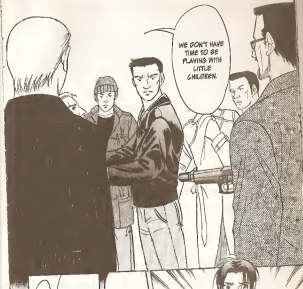
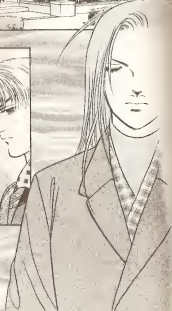
Is she planning?
Sleeping?

She hasn't
said boo
since.

She loves Shingo.

That much
is for
sure.

But
still...



WE DON'T HAVE
TIME TO BE
PLAYING WITH
LITTLE
CHILDREN.

WE
DON'T
HAVE A
CHOICE.

WE CAN'T
TAKE ALL
OF THEM.
WHAT DO
WE DO?

NOT AFTER
WE'VE
DRAWN OUR
GUNS.

LET
'EM
GO!

THEY'VE GOT
NOTHING TO
DO WITH THIS!
IT'S ME YOU
WANT.



But there are some things that are unacceptable.

Even to a regular guy like me.

It takes a lot to save the world from annihilation.

The mission objectives have to come first, so does that mean love ranks second—or even lower?

And that's just the way it is?

If there were no other way, would Yuu—I mean—U.B. agent number nine do it?

I mean, would she sacrifice Shingo if she had to?

Love. Devotion. Passion. It doesn't matter what you call it, using one thing could change all that.

Her whole life revolves around her missions.

So where does a guy like Shingo fit in?

Can they really continue being together?

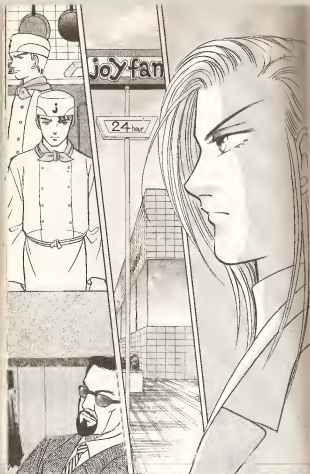
But can a person like that actually love someone?

And let's be honest here.

She's one of the best of Ultimate Blue, the world's most powerful organization. She has the power to change the course of history.

How much does she really love him? That's been gnawin' at me the whole time.

She's like a machine made for combat.

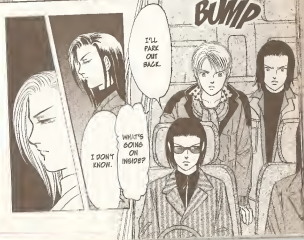


I refuse to
accept
that!

No! No way!



THERE'S THE
RESTAURANT.



BUMP

I'LL
PARK
ONE
SAG.

I DON'T
KNOW.

WHAT'S
GOING
ON
INSIDE?



SIT
DOWN
AND BE
QUIET.

HEY!
THAT'S
ENOUGH!

IF YOU WANT, I
CAN START BY
KILLING YOUR
FALG--WHILE
YOU WATCH.



WE'RE NOT
OVERLY
CONCERNED
ABOUT THE
BODY COUNT.



YOU

YOU

WHAT?



SEE

SO?
WHERE
ARE
THEY?



WE DON'T
WANT TO BE
HERE ANY
LONGER,
EITHER.

WHY MAKE IT
MORE
PAINFUL FOR
YOURSELF?



ARE YOU
FINALLY
READY TO
TALK?



WHERE ARE
THOSE
TWO?



WE CAN'T
WASTE ANY
MORE TIME
DOING THIS.

WE
DON'T
HAVE A
CHOICE.



RIGHT.



GET
SOME
WATER.



I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
I DON'T
KNOW.

YOU
CAN
ASK ALL
YOU
WANT.



WELL...

STUBBORN
KID.



OF
ALL
THE
LUCK.

WE CAN'T
DO A THING
BECAUSE
THEY HAVE
HOSTAGES.



DO IT.

RIGHT.



WE DON'T HAVE
ANY SHORTAGE
OF PEOPLE TO
KILL.

IF YOU WANT TO
TALK, THEN TALK.
IF YOU WANT TO
STALL, THAT'S
FINE, TOO.

NO, DON'T.

INNOCENT
PEOPLE ARE
GOING TO DIE
BECAUSE OF
YOU.

YOU CAN
WATCH
FROM
THERE.

DO
IT.

ooooooooooooo!



RIGHT.

THIS IS
YOUR
LAST
WASH-
ING.

WAKE
UP.



LOWE
HERE.



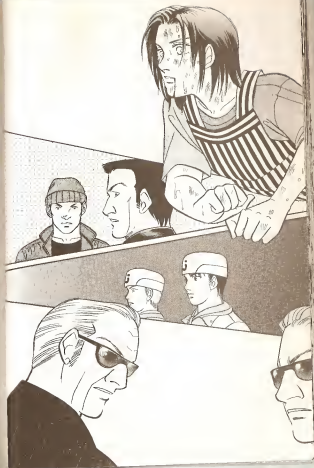
WE START
KILLING THEM
ONE AT A
TIME.

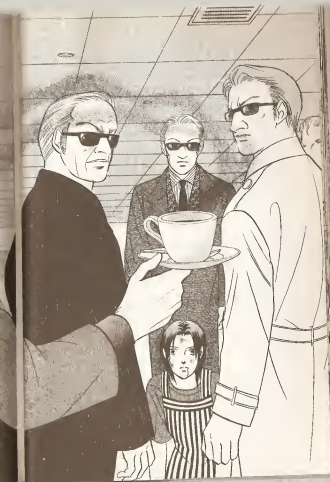
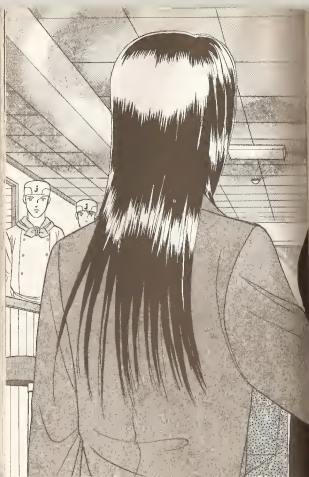


IT'S TIME FOR
A BREAK.



WOULD YOU
LIKE SOME
COFFEE?







The lion knew
that it was
dangerous, armed
with razor sharp
claws and fangs
that could rip
through anything.

We could tell
that it was
doing
everything it
could to keep
its feelings
under control.

The lion was
roused from
its slumber.



They
crossed the
one person
they
shouldn't
have.

Some idiots
roused the one
lion they shouldn't
have.



They'd
already
been
working
Shingo
over.

We got to
the
restaurant
too late.

"You wait
here."
That was
all she
said.

Allen
tried to
go in.

Yui
stopped
her.



It was
obvious to
us.





Ice forge
and claws
were bared.



The lion
was
furious.



Mission 23: The White Fields, Part 6

It would
fight to
protect
its loved
one.



End of Mission 23: The White Fields, Part 5



She wasn't new to us or nothing.

We'd even been through some pretty intense situations with her. So we thought we knew her good.



Wrong. This time we saw her fight for real.

But we also seen a side of her we'd never seen before.

Fury. And just how intense she could be.

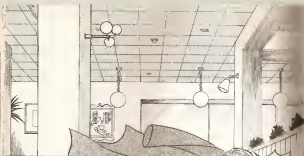


She showed us firsthand what she really was— one of the best of Ultimate Blue.

The lion was now awake.







THEN
WHERE IS SHE?!

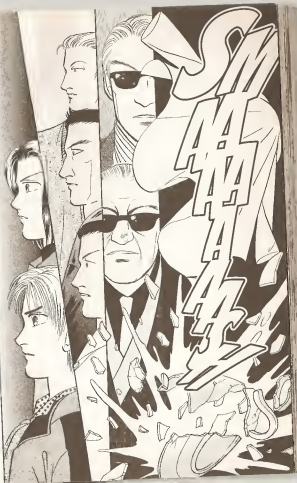
THAT'S
IMPOSSIBLE!



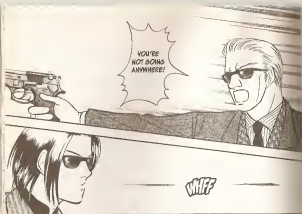
SHE
DISAP-
PEARED!



ACK!









I hadn't seen that side of her before.

That was the first time.



Even the goons were taken aback.

She was so... scary.

It wasn't the sort of situation that required her.

But there she was, angrier than sin. Only one thing could've made her that mad.

Only one.





THAT
WOMAN
IS STILL
IN
THERE.



WELL, YEAH, BUT
YOU GOTTA GET
LOOKED AT
FAST.

IT MUST HURT
EVEN TRYING TO
STAND UP.

I CAN'T
LEAVE YET.

I'M NOT
LEAVING.



SOME-
ONE'S
GOTTA
HOLD
HER
BACK.

BESIDES,
IT'S
PROBABLY
BETTER THAT
HE STAYS.

LET HIM DO
WHAT HE
WANTS.

Oh,
man.

He's
at it
again.

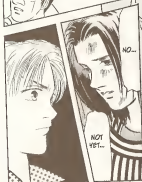
She was
furious.
She
wanted
revenge.

A bunch
of goons
hurt the
only
person
she loved
in the
whole
world.

WE GOTTA
GET HIM TO
A HOSPITAL.

THEY WORKED
HIM GOOD--
SEVERAL
BUSTED RIBS
AT THE VERY
LEAST.

And
they
would
pay.



NO...

NOT
YET...





THE
LEADER'S
MISSING.

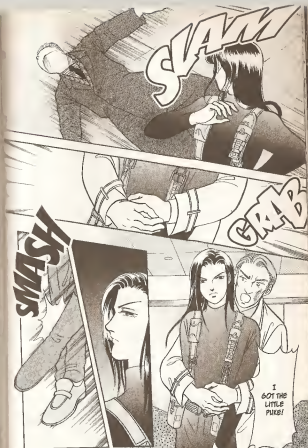


NO.

TWO...
THREE...
IS THAT
IT?



THAT
THEM...
WAS
PERFECT.



I
GOT THE
LITTLE
PUKE!



SPIN SPIN
SPIN SPIN



Is she the one
that took the
general down?

She's
too
good!

If she is, it'll be
impossible to
rescue him!

There are
actually
people like
her?



There's
the
fire
escape!

I need to
warn the men
in this
country.

We have to
regroup!





As I watched her leave, I realized how difficult it was for them.

They'd always have to lay low... always have to keep quiet about their love... keep their identities a secret.

It was the best-- and *only* way to keep Shingo safe.

And that was the only way they could have a life together.



AH... YEAH. SURE THING, MAN.

SORRY, DUDE, BUT COULD YOU TAKE ME TO THE HOSPITAL?



I JUST WANTED TO BE I DON'T WANT TO BE SURE ALL OF THE GUNDO- MERS WERE SAFE.

WERE YOU WAITING FOR HER?

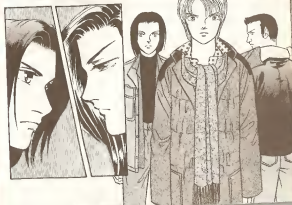
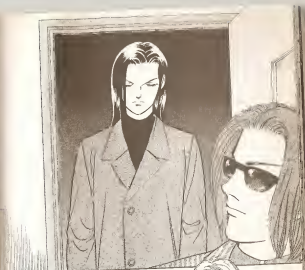
IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK.



Even after all that.



They still pretended not to know each other.



Love between people
with totally different
lives.

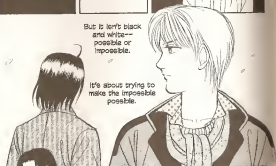
Is such a thing
possible?

The answer was
there to see a
long time ago.



But it isn't black
and white--
possible or
impossible.

It's about trying to
make the impossible
possible.



Do you, Ten?

Do you
think I
could be
that
strong?

Think
I
can
do
it?

What?



Yui and Shingo were willing to
accept whatever the difficulties.



Their love
for one
another was
extreme.

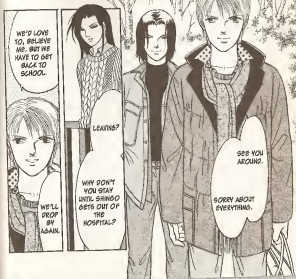
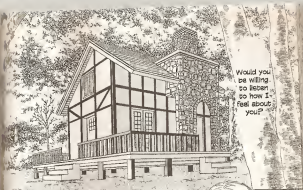


It was nothing
short of miraculous.





HONK HONK



THANKS.

I SEE.

GOOD
LUCK
THEN.

But it's
etched
into my
brain.

Aileen may
have said
it in
passing.

"The
difference
between
9 and 10
is very
big."

Maybe it
came from
respect
and envy
for
someone
she could
never be
better
than.

The respect
she showed
you
bordered on
reverence.
It wasn't
normal.
Everyone
could tell
there was
something
else behind
it.

At first,
it
seemed
like
Aileen
hated
us.



Aileen?

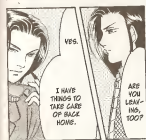
I'M
READY.

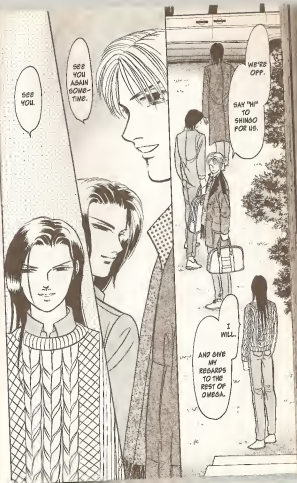
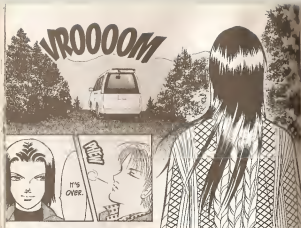
YES.

I HAVE
THINGS TO
TAKE CARE
OF BACK
HOME.

ARE
YOU
LEAV-
ING,
TOO?

I'LL SEE
YOU TO
THE
STATION.







WELL-
COME
BACK.



IT'S
GOOD
TO BE
BACK.

The falling
snow gave
way to
falling
cherry
blossoms.

And so
it came
to
pass.

The forest
grew green
again with the
season's new
growth.



UH-
HUN.

READY
TO
GO?

Aileen knew she could never be
better than her idol was.

So she didn't want to see Yui
going out with someone who she
thought was inferior to her.

YEAH,
SEEMS
IT.

That was what had been bothering
Aileen for so long.

Or so Katsune and I thought.

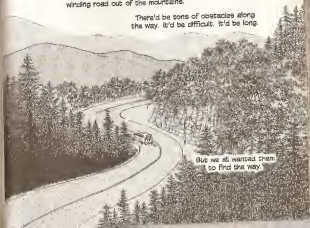
It was only much later when we learned
how wrong we were.



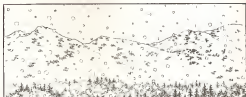
We drove out of the mountains and
left their house far behind.

In a way, their love was like the long and
winding road out of the mountains.

There'd be some obstacles along
the way. It'd be difficult. It'd be long.



But we all wanted them
to find the way.



But, by then,
the residents of
the White Fields
were gone.

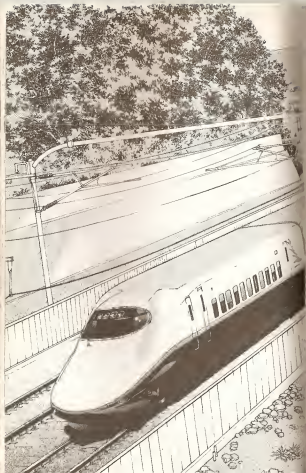
A spiral spins, and with
it untold mysteries.

Laying claim to secrets
millions of years old,
humans verge on making
what is theirs what was
once the gods'.

Is the knowledge
forbidden?

Still the answer is not
found, and still the
spiral spins on.





Mission 24: 1 Hour, 37 Minutes, Part 1

She wants to kill the
bad guys into a
fame scene of
security.

But she's
having a
lot of problems
with it.

SAY
WHAT?

I think you can understand.
Still, I owe it to you to write
how things are.

HE IS
SO
CONSCI-
ENTIOUS.

WE
ALREADY
KNOW HOW
HARD IT IS
FOR A
REGULAR
DUDE TO BE
GOING OUT
WITH ONE
OF
ULTIMATE
BLISS'S
BEST.

SHINGO'S
A REAL
GOOD
DUD.

We're both doing
good. I've got a new
job, and she's on a
new mission.

VILL'S
BUSY AS
ALWAYS.

Her latest
mission is in
Japan.

School life for us was boring--
as always.

Then, one summer day, a letter
came to us from Shingo.

I hope you're fine.

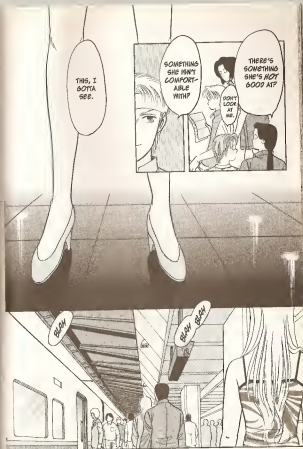
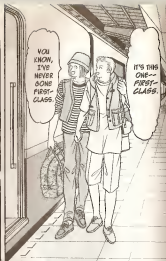
I'm sorry that I
can't give you my
address despite all
that you guys went
through for me.

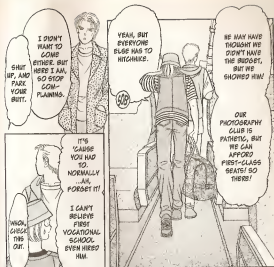
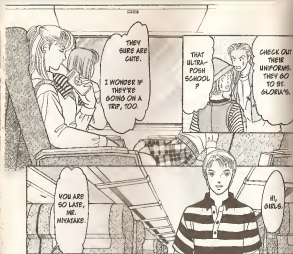
HOW'D
THAT
GET
HERE?

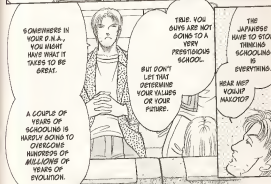
ONE-NINER
BROUGHT
IT.

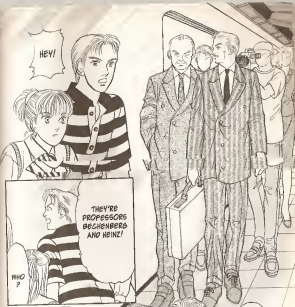
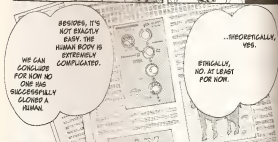
SHINGO'S LETTER

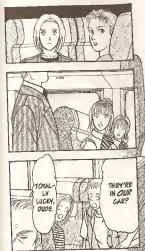
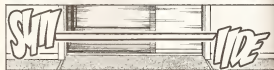
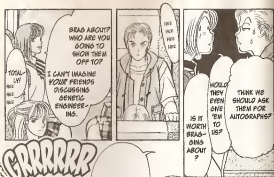
SHINGO'S LETTER TO SHINGO'S NEW HOME IN
THE CITY OF THE FUTURE
THE CITY OF THE FUTURE IS A CITY OF THE FUTURE
THE CITY OF THE FUTURE IS A CITY OF THE FUTURE
THE CITY OF THE FUTURE IS A CITY OF THE FUTURE
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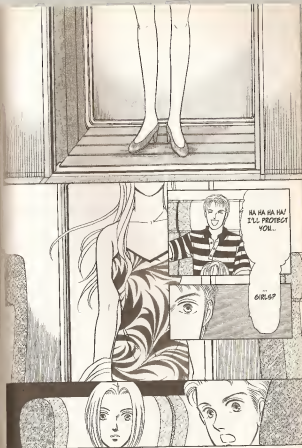
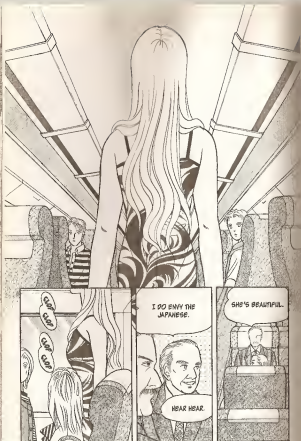






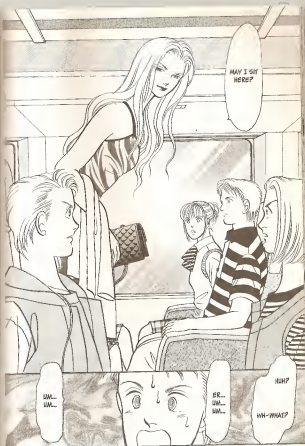


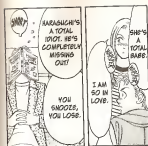
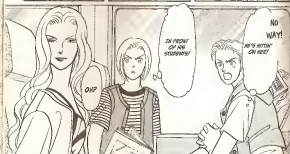
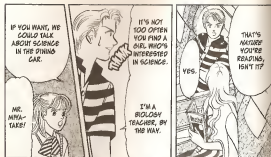


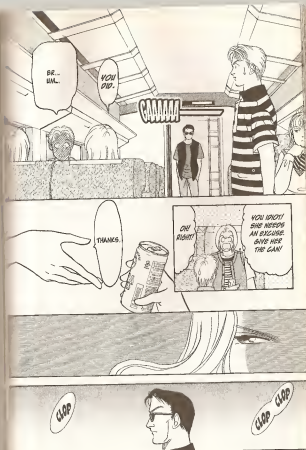
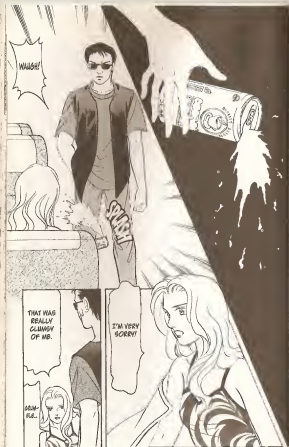


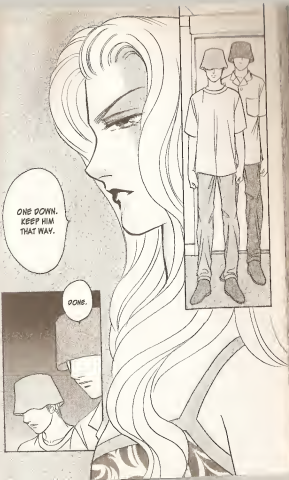
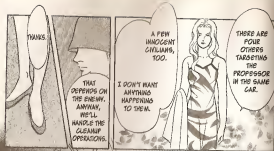


THIS IS THE
SEAT THEY
GAVE ME.











I'M SURE THAT IT
WON'T BE
DIFFICULT FOR
SEVEN.

SEVEN HAS
ALREADY
CONTACTED
ME.



OR FOR
ME.



TELL SEVEN
NOT TO
WORRY.



IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE
TOP SECRET AT THE
C.I.A., BUT SOMEHOW
HIS DOSSIER WAS
STOLEN AND WOUND UP
IN THE HANDS OF
WARRING STATES. AND
NOW, THEY WANT THE
PROFESSOR.

THE PROFESSOR
IS KEEPING IT A
SECRET, BUT HE'S
ALREADY
PERFECTED
HUMAN CLONING.

THEY'D DO
ANYTHING TO GET
HIM--THEIR GOAL IS
ARMIES OF CLONED
SUPER SOLDIERS.



THAT MAKES
IT ANY
MISSION.

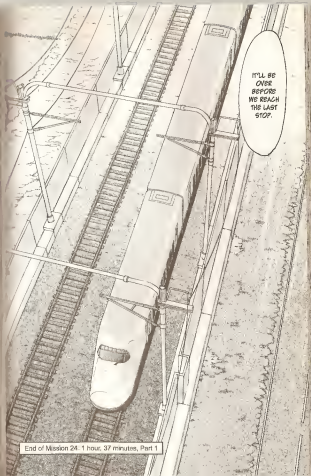
THE
PROFESSOR
IS HERE IN
JAPAN RIGHT
NOW.



NO. HE
WASN'T
ANY-
WHERE.



SPOKE,
DID YOU
FIND
SHANE?



IT'LL BE
OVER
BEFORE
WE REACH
THE LAST
STOP.

End of Mission 24: 1 hour, 37 minutes, Part 1

MAY I
GET BY?

EXCUSE
ME.



OOPS.
SORRY.



GAH!
THANKS.

WAAH

NO, NO
WAY.

HER?



WITH OR
WITHOUT HIM,
IT'S JUST A
MATTER OF
EXECUTING.

DON'T LET
YOUR
GUARD
DOWN.



BUT...

YEAH,
EVERY-
THING'S
GOING TO
PLAN--
EXCEPT
SNAPS.

WHERE'D HE
DISAPPEAR
TO AT A TIME
LIKE THIS?

IS EVERY-
ONE ELSE
ACCOUNT-
ED FOR?

IF THAT'S THE
CASE, WE MAY
HAVE TO TAKE HIM
HERE.

IT COULD BE
THAT ONE OF
THEM TOOK OUT
SPIDER.

OUR TARGET'S BIG.
A LOT OF
ORGANIZATIONS
WANT HIM.



YEAH, I
KNOW.
STILL ...

THERE'RE
ONLY EYES
AND OLD
PEOPLE IN
THAT
CARRIAGE.

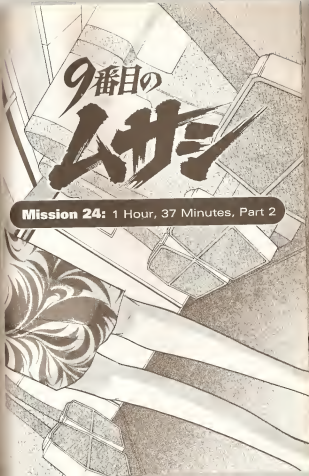


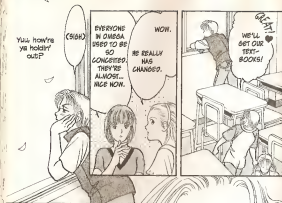
THERE'S
NOTHING TO
GET
WORRIED
ABOUT.



9番目の ムサシ

Mission 24: 1 Hour, 37 Minutes, Part 2





Then I start thinkin' about you and Shingo.

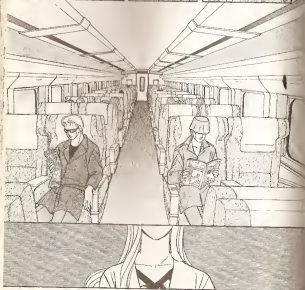
Maybe it's better this way, you know?

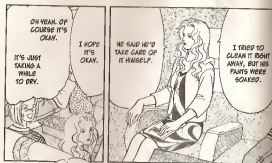
It's really boring here. Nothin' ever happens.

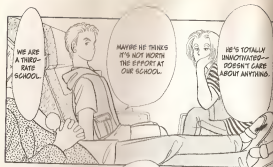
You don't okay?

I'm just passin' time.









WE ARE
A THIRD-
RATE
SCHOOL.

MAYBE HE THINKS
IT'S NOT WORTH
THE EFFORT AT
OUR SCHOOL.

HE'S TOTALLY
UNMOTIVATED--
DOESN'T CARE
ABOUT ANYTHING.



AH...
OKAY.

YOU SHOULD TRY
TO BE MORE
POSITIVE. IT JUST
MAY BE THAT IT HAD
TO BE THIS WAY.



SO NOW
COME IT
SOUNDS SO
MUCH
BETTER
WHEN SHE
SAYS IT?

KARASUCHI
SAID THE
SAME SORTA
THING.

BESIDES, YOUR
ENVIRONMENT
CAN'T CHANGE
YOUR INBORN
TALENTS NOW.

I WOULDN'T
BE SO
QUICK TO
DISPARAGE
MYSELF.



A FIELD
TRIP?

IT MUST
BE NICE
GOING
FIRST-
CLASS.

HE WAS, LIKE,
DEAD SET AGAINST
THIS TRIP. SO HE
STARTS LAYING
DOWN MILLIONS
OF CONDITIONS,
YEAH?

HE KNOWS THAT
IF HE DON'T
TAS ALONG,
THERE AIN'T NO
WAY THE
SCHOOL'S GONNA OKAY
THE TRIP.

ALMOST
COULDN'T, BUT
WE SCRAPED
TOGETHER THE
FUNDS
SOMEHOW.

THERE'S
A
REASON
FOR
THAT.

SEE THAT LOSER
PASSED OUT THERE?
THAT'S KARASUCHI.
HE'S IN CHARGE,
YEAH?

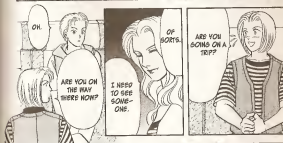
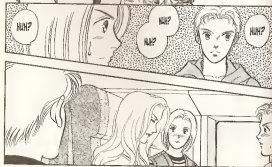
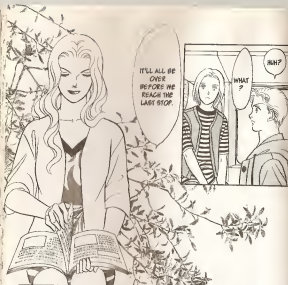
WHAT DOES
HE TEACH?

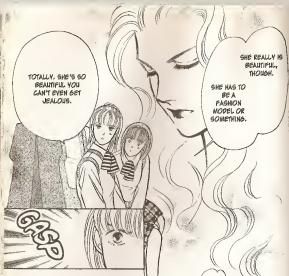
SOMETHING THAT
HAS NOTHING TO
DO WITH
PHOTOGRAPHY--
BIOLOGY.

BUT WE DIDN'T
HAVE A CHOICE.
EVERY CLUB HAS
TO HAVE AN
ADVISOR. HE WAS
THE ONLY
TEACHER
AVAILABLE.

YEAH?!
WE DIDN'T
WANT HIM
EITHER!

IN ALL
FAIRNESS, IT'S
NOT AS IF
KARASUCHI
WANTED TO BE
THE CLUB'S
ADVISOR.
I CAN SORTA
RELATE.





THANK





OH!
I KNEW
YOU
WOULD!

IS THAT
WHY YOU
RESERVED A
SEAT ON
THIS CAR?



IT'S NOT
TOO OFTEN
THAT YOU--

EX-
CUSE
ME.



WOW. SO
WE'RE
INTERESTED
IN THE SAME
THING.



DO YOU
KNOW WHO
THAT WAS?

THAT WAS
PROFESSOR
BOCHENBERG. HE'S
AN AUTHORITY ON
GENETIC
ENGINEERING.



MISS?



I CAN RELATE,
BUT IT'S TOO
EMBARRASSING
EVEN TO WATCH.



OH, HAH. HE.
BIOLOGY WILL TRY
ANYTHING NOW.



THERE'S A
SYMPOSIUM
WHERE WE'RE
GOING, AND AS
LUCK WOULD
HAVE IT WE'RE
IN THE SAME
CAR.
I'M VERY
EXCITED
ABOUT IT.



HE'S VERY
FANCUS.

I KNOW
WHO HE IS.

YES.





Something is on the loose.

In silence it stalks its prey.

Never does it fail to
find the mark.



It slips away unseen, unheard.

It is a huntress...

...a huntress without peer.



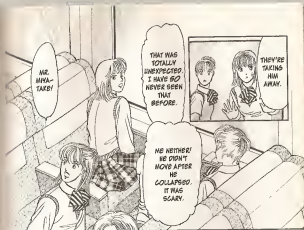
THUD

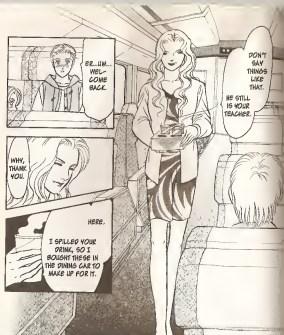


9番目の
ムサシ

Mission 24: 1 Hour, 37 Minutes, Part 3







SR...UM...
WEL-
COME
BACK.

DON'T
SAY
THINGS
LIKE
THAT.

HE STILL
IS YOUR
TEACHER.

WHY,
THANK
YOU.

HERE.

I SPILLED YOUR
DRINK, SO I
BOUGHT THESE IN
THE DINING CAR TO
MAKE UP FOR IT.



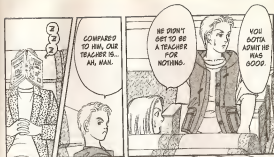
DID YOU NOTICE,
LIKE, THE GUY
BEHIND YOU
COLLAPSED?



SR...
THANKS.

IT WAS
NOTHING.
HERE.

YOU
WENT TO
THE
DINING
CAR? WOW.



COMPARED
TO HIM, OUR
TEACHER IS...
AH, MAN.

HE DIDN'T
GET TO BE
A TEACHER
FOR
NOTHING.

YOU
GOTTA
ADMIT HE
WAS
GOOD.



I WONDER IF
HE'S BEEN THAT
WAY HIS WHOLE
LIFE. DOESN'T
HE CARE HE'S
MISSING OUT?

HE'S STILL SINGLE
AT HIS AGE. HE'S
NOT INTERESTED
IN LIFE, LET
ALONE GIRLS.

HE'S GOOD
FOR
NOTHING,
TOTALLY
IRRE-
SPONSIBLE.
HE'S NOT
EVEN
INTERESTED
IN
TEACHING.



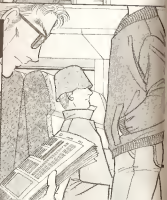
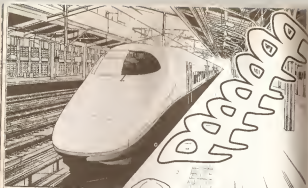
YOU ARE
SO
MEAN.



SUPPOSE HE
DID SEE IT,
THOUGH.
HE'D 'A JUST
WANNED.

YOU
SAID IT.

IN ONE
SENSE HE'S
A GREAT
TEACHER.
I DON'T
WANNA END
UP LIKE HIM.



I DID HEAR
SOMETHING, BUT I
JUST THOUGHT A
PIECE OF
LUGGAGE FELL.

I DIDN'T
BOOTHER TO
TURN AROUND,
SO I DON'T
KNOW ANYTHING
ABOUT IT.

PEOPLE
WERE
TALKING
ABOUT IT
EVEN IN THE
DINING CAR.

I
DIDN'T
NOTICE
THOUGH





SO FAR, NO
ACTION, NO
ATTENTION, NO
PROBLEMS.

YOU, LIZARD,
AND I ARE
THE ONLY
ONES LEFT.

THIS
CHANGES
EVERYTHING.

WE NEED TO DO
IT BEFORE
ANYTHING ELSE
HAPPENS.

HAH

WE CHECKED OUT
THE TARGET
COMPLETELY.
THERE WAS NO
SIGN OF
ANOTHER OUTFIT
OUT TO GET HIM.

IT'S
DANGEROUS
TO
OVERREACT.

WE'RE
MOVING THE
TABLE
UP.

OH YEAH?
THEN HOW DO
YOU EXPLAIN
"SNAKE" AND
"CENTREDEE"?
ONE
DISAPPEARED,
THE OTHER
COLLAPSED.

COINCIDENCE?
SURE.

MAYBE SOME
ORGANIZATION
ISN'T AT WORK.



THE
PROFES-
SORS.



THERE AREN'T
TOO MANY
PASSENGERS.
TWO GROUPS
OF TEACHERS
AND
STUDENTS.



NONE OF
THEM SEEM
LIKELY.

A YOUNG
WOMAN.
THAT'S ALL.



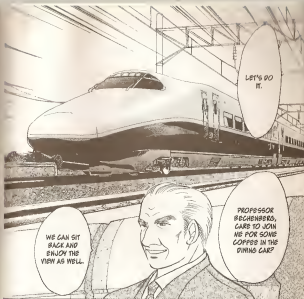
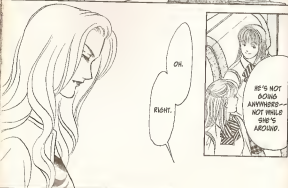
WE'RE AN
ELITE TEAM
OF
SPECIALISTS.
BUT THEY
TOOK OUT
TWO OF US
LIKE
NOTHING.

WHOEVER DID IT
USED A TRICK
THAT LEAVES NO
TRACE. THAT
MEANS WE'RE
NOT UP AGAINST
SOME TWO-BIT
OPERATION. AND
WE DON'T KNOW
HOW THEY DID IT.



THAT'S UNLIKELY.
WE WERE
TOGETHER THE
WHOLE TIME,
AND WE WERE
EXTRA CAREFUL.

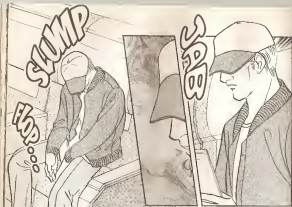
THEN
SOMEONE HIT
CENTREDEE
BEFORE WE
GOT ON THE
TRAIN?





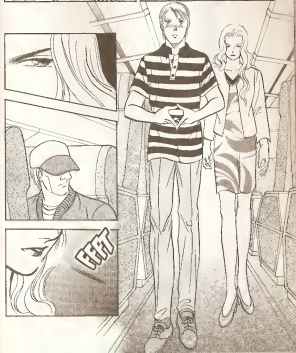
I WANTED TO TALK TO THE PROFESSORS, BUT I'M TOO SHY TO TALK TO THEM ON MY OWN.

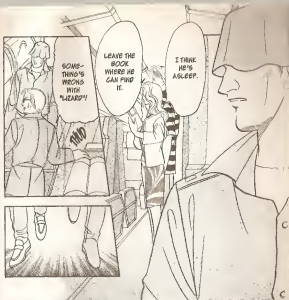
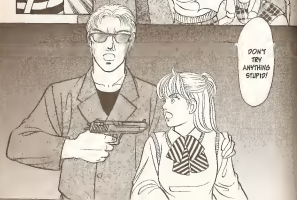
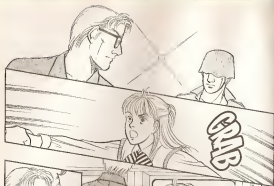




YOU
DROPPED
YOUR BOOK.

OH.





Life quietly goes on.

The changing of the seasons.
The chirping of the insects.

People will live today as
they did yesterday.

But life is
not always
as it
appears.

There is also an unreal world
that is all too real.

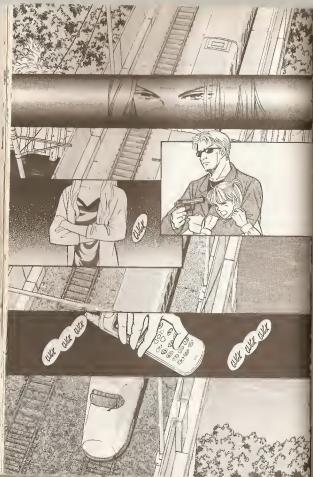


End of Mission 24: 1 hour, 37 minutes, Part 3



9番目の ムサシ

Mission 24: 1 Hour, 37 Minutes, Part 4

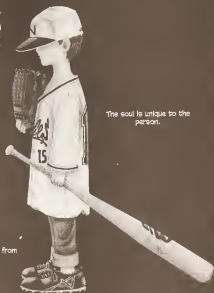


No two people in the world are alike.

Even if they were born on the same date,
in the same country, in the same place.

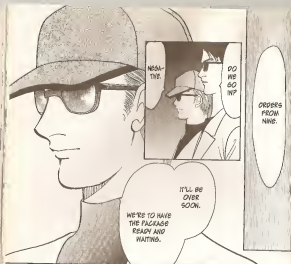
Even if they were born to the same clan,
the same family, the same siblings.

Even if they had
the exact same
genetic makeup.



The soul is unique to the
person.

It is that way from
birth.





IF THE AGENT
DOESN'T SHOW,
WE START
LIQUIDATING
PASSENGERS ONE
AT A TIME.

DON'T
MESS
WITH US.

WE AREN'T
AFRAID TO DO
WHATEVER IT
TAKES.

WHAT ARE YOU
TALKING ABOUT!
THERE'S NOBODY
LIKE THAT IN HERE.
LOOK!
THERE ARE ONLY
WOMEN AND
CHILDREN!

OTHERWISE,
YOU'LL BE
RESPONS-
IBLE FOR THE
DEATHS OF
INNOCENT
CIVILIANS.

N
O
O
O
O
!

THIS IS YOUR
ONLY
WARNING.
STOP HIDING
AND COME
OUT.

WE KNOW
YOU'RE IN
HERE!

NO!
STOP!

HELP
ME,
MR.
MAY-TAKE!

N
O
O
O
O
!

STARTING
WITH THIS
ONE.

THEN...

THE
PROFES-
SORS!

GASP!

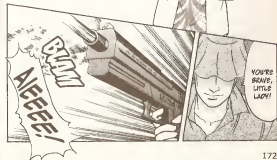
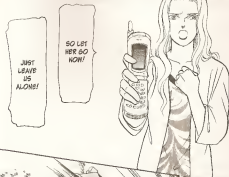
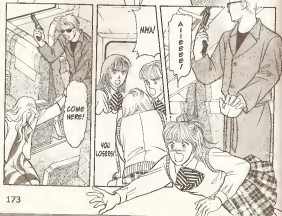
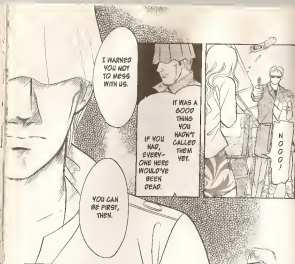
I GET IT
NOW!

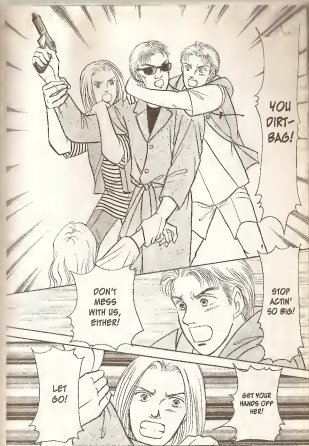
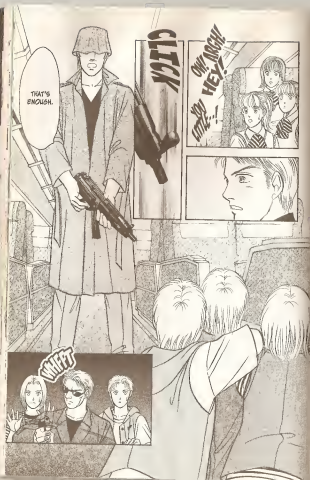
YOU'RE
HERE TO
ABOUT THE
PROFES-
SORS.

WE CHECKED
THEM OUT MOST
THOROUGHLY.
WHO WOULDN'T
WANT THEIR
TALENTS?
BUT SPECIAL
FORCES THEY
ARE NOT.

RIGHT
NOW, THE
PRIORITY
IS FINDING
THE
AGENT.

THEY DIDN'T TAKE
US OUT. THAT
MUCH WE KNOW.







IF YOU'RE
GONNA
START
OFFENS
PEOPLE,
START WITH
ME.

WHO KNOWS
WHAT'LL BE
SAID ABOUT ME
IF THEY GET
SHOT FIRST.

THEY'RE
MY KIDS.



WE
WOULD
NEVER DO
THAT.

WARAUGHIP



YOU'LL
HAVE TO
LEARN THE
HARD WAY.

OBTU-
OUSLY,
YOU
DIDN'T
UNDER-
STAND.

WE WARNED
YOU NOT TO
TRY
SOMETHING
STUPID.



YOU
GLOWING
GET TO BE
FIRST.



STOP
RIGHT
THERE.

PROFESSOR KARASUCHI'S A GENIUS.

WE AREN'T THE ONLY ONES WHO WANT HIS EXPERTISE.

AND HE DID IT 10 YEARS AGO WHEN HE WAS STILL IN HIS 20S.

W H A A A A A T !

HE'S THE ONLY PERSON IN THE WORLD WHO'S PERFECTLY CLONED A HUMAN.

'CAUSE HE'S RUNNING.

IF HE'S SUCH A GENIUS, WHY'S HE TEACHING AT A NO-NAME SCHOOL?

RUNNING FROM HIS RESEARCH. RUNNING FROM US.

IT GOES BACK TO THAT FATEFUL DAY.

HE'S RUNNING FROM EVERYTHING.

PROFESSOR SOUGAZEN KARASUCHI.

YOU SEE, YOU'RE OUR TARGET.

HARA-BUCHE!

WHY?

HE'S THE REAL DEAL.

THEIR WORK IS CHILD'S PLAY COMPARED TO HARASUCHI'S.

SURPRISE?

THEN YOU WEREN'T AFTER THOSE EXPERTS ON GENETIC ENGINEERING.



HIS WIFE WORKED
WITH HIM AT THE
LAB. AND, WITH HER
APPROVAL, HE
CREATED A CLONE
OF HIMSELF AND
RAISED IT AS HIS
OWN SON.

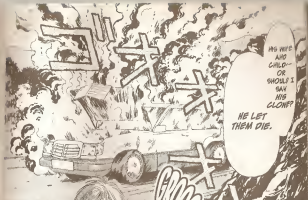
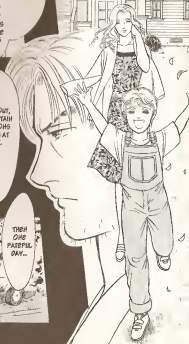
BUT HE DEVOTED
MORE AND MORE
OF HIS TIME TO HIS
FAMILY AND, IN THE
END, GAVE UP HIS
RESEARCH.

WORD GOT OUT,
THOUGH. CERTAIN
ORGANIZATIONS
WANTED HIM AT
ALL COST.

HE AND HIS
FAMILY WERE
CONSTANTLY
ON THE RUN.

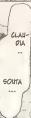


THIS
WAS
ONE
PAINFUL
DAY...



HIS WIFE
AND
CHILD—
OR
SHOULD I
SAY
HIS
CLONE?

HE LET
THEM DIE.



YOTER



I'M NOT
INTERESTED IN
CREATING AN
ARMY OF
PERFECT
KILLERS.

YOU CAN TAKE
ME WHEREVER
YOU WANT.

BUT I'M NOT
DOING A
THING.



THE LIVES OF YOUR
STUDENTS AND
PASSENGERS RIDE ON
YOUR DECISION.

PROFES-
SOR,
YOU'RE
NOT IN A
POSITION
TO
BARGAIN.

HA
HA
HA
HA



RUN, LIKE WHEN
YOU
ABANDONED
YOUR WIFE AND
SON?

OR ARE YOU
GOING TO
RUN AWAY
AGAIN?

HE
WASN'T
TRYING
TO RUN
AWAY.



YOU'LL HAVE
TO ASK
THAT REPORT
SLIGHTLY.



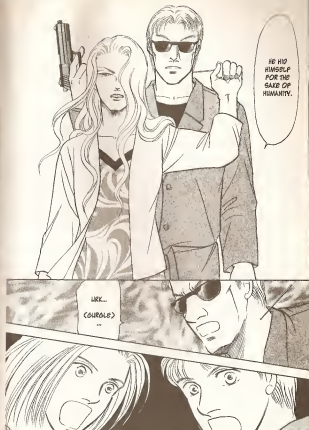
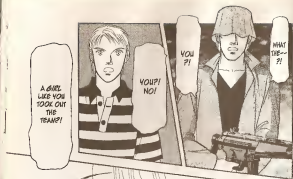
YOU SEE,
HE DIDN'T WANT
TO BE FOUND--
BY PEOPLE
LIKE US.

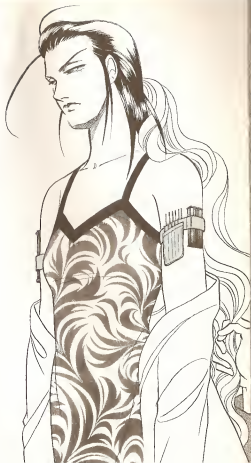
IT TOOK US A
LONG TIME, BUT
WE FINALLY
TRACKED YOU
DOWN.

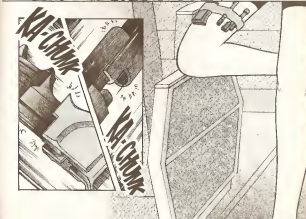


HE WAS THE ONLY
SURVIVOR BECAUSE
HE WAS LUCKILY
THROWN CLEAR.

SINCE
THEN, HE'S
BEEN
HIDING IN
HIS NATIVE
COUNTRY.









PER-
FECTLY
EYE-
CATCHING--
AS
ALWAYS.



IT'S
ALL
YOURS
NOW.





WE
KNOW
EVERY-
THING.

THAT'S
FINE
WITH
US.

LIKE I SAID,
I'M NEVER
GOING TO
CLONE
ANOTHER
HUMAN.



AND WE KNOW
WHY YOU
AVOIDED
EVERYONE.
YOU WERE
WORRIED THAT
INNOCENT
PEOPLE WOULD
GET HURT.

WE KNOW THAT
YOU DROVE INTO
THE PLANES IN AN
EFFORT TO SAVE
YOUR FAMILY.

IT MUST HAVE BEEN A
OUT-OF-CONTROL
DECISION TO RUN
WHEN THE ATTACKERS
CAME. BUT YOU
KNEW HOW
DANGEROUS YOUR
RESEARCH COULD BE
IN THE WRONG
HANDS.



THAT'S WHY
HE WAS SO
RELUCTANT TO
TAKE THE TRIP.

I STILL
DON'T
BELIEVE
IT.

YOU MUST
HAVE
DREADED
THIS TRIP.

ANY SCIENTIST
GOING TO THE
CLONING
SYMPOSIUM
WOULD BE
INSTANTLY
RECOGNIZED
YOU.



THANKS
FOR
YOUR
HELP.

SR..
AM..

I'M SORRY
THAT IT GOT
A LITTLE
SCARY, BUT
YOU'RE
SAFE NOW.

SR..
AM..

NOW
THEN.

WHAT
DO YOU
KNOW?

YOU'RE
JUST LIKE
THEM.

PROFESSOR,
WE'D LIKE YOU
TO COME WITH
US.

YET WE KNOW
QUITE A BIT
ABOUT THE
ACCIDENT.

WE
WEREN'T
THERE.

SOME
OF THESE
DETAILS
COULDN'T
ONLY COME
FROM A
PERSON
WHO WAS
THERE.

WHO
DO YOU
THINK
TOLD US?

IF HE WAS
CONCEIVED
NATURALLY...

IF I
DIDN'T
GLOW
HIM...

MY DEAR
WIFE
AND
SON.
I...I...

I COULDN'T
EVEN
PROTECT
MY FAMILY.

I'M
ANY-
THING
BUT
"ANY-
SOME."

YOU'RE,
LIKE,
TOTALLY
AWESOME
THEN.

I
KILLED
THEM.

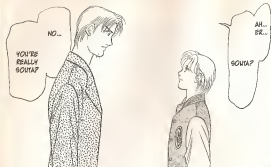
NOBODY
WOULDN'T
COME AFTER
US. NOBODY
WOULDN'T
WANTED US.

PROVES-
SOMETHING?

GO.

JUST
SAY
THE
WORD.

EVERY-
THING
READY?



YOUR WIFE IS
FINE, BY THE
WAY. WE
BROUGHT HER
UNDER OUR
PROTECTION,
TOO.

HE HID BEHIND
SOME ROCKS
BUT COULDN'T
SAY ANYTHING
BECAUSE OF
THE
ATTACKERS.

HE COULD
ONLY
WATCH YOU
GROWING
SMALLER
IN THE
DISTANCE.

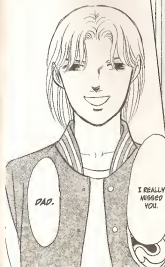
THE NEXT
STEP WAS
LOOKING
FOR YOU.

BUT YOU
WEREN'T THE
ONLY ONE.

YOU WERE
THROWN
FROM THE
CAR.

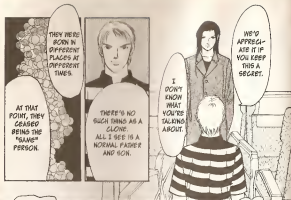


IT TOOK A
WHILE, BUT
WE FOUND
YOU.



I REALLY
MISSED
YOU.





THEY WERE
BORN IN
DIFFERENT
PLACES AT
DIFFERENT
TIMES.

AT THAT
POINT, THEY
CEASED
BEING THE
"SAME"
PERSON.

THERE'S NO
SUCH THING AS A
CLONE.
ALL I SEE IS A
NORMAL FATHER
AND SON.

I
DON'T
KNOW
WHAT
YOU'RE
TALKING
ABOUT.

WE'D
APPRECI-
ATE IT IF
YOU KEEP
THIS A
SECRET.



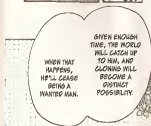
WHO'D
BELIEVE IT IN
THE FIRST
PLACE?

MR.
MITSUKAGE,
THAT IS
SO COOL!

THANKS.



FINDING HIM
WAS NEVER A
PRIORITY
UNTIL NOW.



WHEN THAT
HAPPENS,
HE'LL CEASE
BEING A
WANTED MAN.

GIVEN ENOUGH
TIME, THE WORLD
WILL CATCH UP
TO HIM, AND
CLONING WILL
BECOME A
DISTINCT
POSSIBILITY.



FOR-
GIVE
ME,
SON!



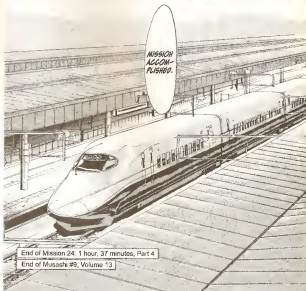
THE PROFESSOR
WANTS TO LIVE A
PEACEFUL LIFE AS
A "NORMAL"
PERSON.
THAT DAY
SHOULDN'T BE
TOO FAR OFF.



PLEASE
REMEMBER
YOUR
BELONG-
INGS...

WE'LL
SOON BE
ARRIVING
IN
NAGATA,
THE LAST
STOP

ONE
ONE
ONE
ONE



MISSION
ACCOM-
PLISHED.

End of Mission 24. 1 hour, 37 minutes, Part 4

End of Musashi #9, Volume 13

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KNOW WHAT'S INSIDE

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EVERYONE

Titles with this rating are appropriate for all age readers. They contain no offensive material. They may contain mild violence and/or some comic mischief.



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